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Message Text

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ACTION IO-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-01 AF-04 ARA-06 EA-06

EUR-08 NEA-07 H-01 INR-05 PM-03 PRS-01 SP-02 NSC-05

NSCE-00 CIAE-00 CU-02 PA-01 INRE-00 /073 W
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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4335
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 13208

LIMDIS

NESCO

DEPT FOR TOUSSAINT FROM REINHARDT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OCON, UNESCO, PORG
SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVE RE DE-POLITICIZATION

REF: STATE 284172

1. FOR EXCELLENT TACTICAL REASONS (TO BE EXPLAINED IN WASHINGTON) THE REF SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT SOME LENGTH WITH BOISSIER-PALUN AND KABORE INSTEAD OF WITH M'BOW HIMSELF. BOTH MEN EMBRACED THE ESSENTIAL IDEA AS IF IT WERE THEIR OWN. NEITHER, HOWEVER, WOULD SUBSCRIBE TO THE ARGUMENT FOR A "PROCEDURE/MECHANISM" BEING ESTABLISHED BY THIS SESSION OF THE GC: (1) THERE SIMPLY IS INSUF-FICIENT TIME; AND (2) NO ONE, INCLUDING M'BOW IN THEIR JUDGEMENT, HAS ENOUGH CREDIT LEFT TO PERSUADE OTHER DELEGATIONS TO INTRODUCE THE IDEA OF EVEN A STUDY LEADING TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM. THE PRESTIGE AND MUSCLE OF THE SECRETARIAT AND OF M'BOW/ BOISSIER THEMSELVES HAS BEEN EXPENDED ON ISRAELI AND MASS
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MEDIA ISSUES. TO MY ARGUMENT THAT THE FUTURE OF THE

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ORGANIZATION ITSELF IS WORTH ONE MORE EFFORT, THEY ANSWERED THAT THERE ARE OTHER WAYS TO ACHIEVE THE DESIRED END THAN BY CREATING AT THIS GC FORMAL OR INFORMAL MECHANISMS.

2. THEY PROMISED TO ASSURE THAT (1) AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME BEFORE THE CLOSING OF THIS SESSION THE DG WILL MAKE UNEQUIVOCAL STATEMENTS SUPPORTING THE DE-POLITICIZATION OF UNESCO; AND (2) BOISSIER WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO GAIN SIMILAR PUBLIC STATEMENTS FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN DELEGATIONS, WHERE HE HAS HIS GREATEST INFLUENCE AND WHERE THE "SPIRIT OF NAIROBI" CAN BE INVOKED AS MOTIVATING ARGUMENT. LATER, IN PARIS, MORE CONCRETE STEPS WILL BE TAKEN, OBVIOUSLY, HOWEVER, HAVING NO ORGANIC RELATION TO DECISIONS REPEAT DECISIONS TAKEN AT 19TH GC. BEYOND THESE TWO ASSURANCES AND THE VAGUE SUGGESTION ABOUT ACTIONS IN PARIS NEITHER MAN WOULD MOVE.

3. COMMENT: PRINCIPAL MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION AND I DO NOT THINK THAT WE CAN ATTAIN MORE IN THE TIME REMAINING TO US. AS I SHALL WANT TO POINT OUT UPON MY RETURN, FOR THE "MIXED" RESULTS THAT WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE AT THE CLOSE OF THIS GC WE TOO HAVE SPENT CONSIDERABLE CREDIT, AND OUR NAIROBI ACCOUNT IS ALMOST DEPLETED. M'BOW AND HIS PRINCIPAL LIEUTENANTS HAVE WORKED VERY HARD IN OUR BEHALF, WHICH WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED, BUT THEY ALSO KNOW THAT ISRAELI ISSUES AND THE MASS MEDIA CONTROVERSY ARE LIKELY TO BE AROUND FOR A LONG TIME AND BASICALLY DO NOT LIKE THE PROSPECT OF FACING UP TO THEM. IRONICALLY THE PROPOSAL MADE TO BOISSIER AND KABORE IS DESIGNED TO PUT THESE ISSUES IN PERSPECTIVE, BUT THEY LEFT ME WITH THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY ARE NOT HOPEFUL. WHILE I STRESSED THE ARGUMENT AT CONCLUSION OF REF. PARA 7, THEY ADVISED THAT WE WILL GAIN ENOUGH FROM THE COMING M'BOW STATEMENT AND, HOPEFULLY, STATEMENTS BY AFRICAN DELEGATIONS. END COMMENT.

4. BEFORE MY DEPARTURE TOMORROW I AM QUITE WILLING TO GO DIRECTLY TO M'BOW WITH THE SAME ARGUMENTATION, OR OTHERS CAN GO LATER, BUT I STRONGLY ADVISE AGAINST
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EITHER COURSE.
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